

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 3083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: EWG MEETING, MAY 31- FRG ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING

REF: A. USNATO 3052

B. USNATO 2827

C. USNATO 2438

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT MAY 31 MEETING (REF A) FRG PRESENTED A BRIEFING ON ANTI- ARMOR OPERATIONS. NEW BUNDESWEHR STRUCTURE WILL INCLUDE INCREASED NUMBERS OF TANKS AND SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN INFANTRY ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS. FRG EMPHASIZED RAPID BARRIER EMPLACEMENT, AIR MOBILE FORCES, AND AIR-DELIVERED ANTI-TANK ORDNANCE TO ASSIST THE BASIC GROUND MANEUVER ELEMENTS. BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTED INCREASING SIMILARITY OF FRG AND US VIEWS ON DEFENSE AGAINST WARSAW PACT TANK THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FRG PRESENTED TO THE EWG A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING ON CURRENT BUNDESWEHR ANTI-ARMOR CONCEPTS AND RESULTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR FORCE STRUCTURE AND WEAPON INVENTORY. GERMAN ANTI-ARMOR OPERATIONS CENTER AROUND ARMORED COMBAT TROOPS WITH THE
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MAIN BATTLE TANK (MBT) AS THE OPERATIONAL MAINSTAY. TANK DESTROYERS WILL SUPPLEMENT THE MBT WITH ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES (ATGM) OF 3000 METERS RANGE. ARMORED INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES (AIFV) NORMALLY WILL BE EMPLOYED WITH TANKS. THE AIFV WILL HAVE

BOTH A 20-MM CANNON AND A 1000-METER ANTI-TANK (AT) SYSTEM (HELLEBARDE), A GUN FIRED ROCKET, WHICH UTILIZES THE MARDER (AIFV) 20-MM FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM. AIR MOBILE COMBAT TROOPS, COMPOSED OF AT HELICOPTERS AND AIRBORNE BRIGADES, WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HIGHLY MOBILE CAPABILITIES. THE FRG STRESSES AREA-FIRE WEAPONS WHICH INCLUDE 23-KM ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND OTHER MINE-SCATTERING SYSTEMS (MSS).

2. AN AN EXAMPLE OF INCREASING SIMILARITY WITH US VIEW OON ANTI-ARMOR OPERATIONS, THE FRG NOW CREDITS THE AIR FORCES WITH A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SUPPORT OF ARMY FORCES. THEY ALSO STRESS BATTLEFIELD INTERDICTIONS WITH MAIN TARGETS IDENTIFIED AS ARMORED RESERVE FORCES, NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, ARTILLERY, OPERATIONS CENTERS, AND LOGISTIC FACILITIES.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF ANTI-ARMOR ASPECTS OF NEW BUNDESWEHR STRUCTURE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. 5 ARMORED AND 6 ARMORED-INFANTRY DIVISIONS. THE 36 BRIGADES INCLUDED WILL BE SUBDIVIDED INTO 16 ARMORED BRIGADES, 17 ARMORED INFANTRY BRIGADES AND 3 AIRBORNE BRIGADES.

B. EACH ARMORED BRIGADE WILL CONTAIN 3 TANK BATTALIONS OF 33 MBT EACH AND ONE ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION OF 43 MARDER AIFV.

C. EACH ARMORED INFANTRY BRIGADE WILL CONTAIN 2 TANK BATTALIONS, 2 ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALIONS, AND ONE BATTALION OF UNARMORED INFANTRY FOR NIGHT ACTIONS AND COMBAT IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN.

D. CHANGES IN DIVISIONAL TROOPS WILL INCLUDE ADDITION OF AN ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT. THE REGIMENT WILL HAVE 2 BATTALIONS OF 30 TANKS EACH, PLUS 17 WHEELED ARMORED RECON VEHICLES. ALSO NEW AT DIVISION LEVEL IS THE ADDITION OF 18 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS CAPABLE OF FIRING ARMOR-IMPEDING ARTILLERY AMMUNITION.

E. CORPS TROOPS WILL INCLUDE AIR-MOBILE COMBAT TROOPS AND ENGINEERS. EACH CORPS WILL HAVE ONE AT HELICOPTER REGIMENT, TWO TRANSPORT HELICOPTER REGIMENTS, AND AN AIRBORNE BRIGADE CONSISTING OF 2 PARATROOP BATTALIONS, A BARRIER BATTALION, AND A TANK DESTROYER BATTALION. A TOTAL OF 11 ENGINEER BATTALIONS WILL
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BE AVAILABLE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO DIVISIONS IN BARRIER LAYING.

4. UNDER THE NEW STRUCTURE, THE BUNDESWEHR WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF WEAPON SYSTEMS AND CAPABILITIES FOR AT OPERATIONS:

A. MORE THAN 4000 MBT

B. APPROXIMATELY 2000 ATGM

C. APPROXIMATELY 2500 AT SYSTEMS OF 1000-METER RANGE

D. APPROXIMATELY 175 AT HELICOPTERS

E. MORE THAN 950 MINE LAUNCHERS AND MSS

F. APPROXIMATELY 200 LIGHT MULTIPLE LAUNCHERS.

5. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, FRG PROVIDED FOLLOWING

ADDITIONAL DATA:

- A. MSS WILL BE COMING INTO THE FORCES IN 1977-78 TIME FRAME.
- B. FRG NOW HAS ABOUT 30,000 PANZERFAUST-TYPE WEAPON (HAND-HELD, UNGUIDED, AT ROCKET LAUNCHERS) IN SERVICE.
- C. FRG VIEWS ON USE OF TACTICAL AIR FORCES AND WEAPONRY ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE US.

6. THE US EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE (REF B) PROVIDED A BRIEF UPDATE TO THE US BRIEFING GIVEN TO THE EWG ON 2 MAY (REF C). CHANGE WAS INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DRAGON AT WEAPONS PER BATTALION FROM 27 TO 31. COBRA TOW HELICOPTERS IN THE US CORPS ARE BEING INCREASED TO 126, WHICH WILL PROVIDE 6 COMPANIES PERS CORPS.

7. TEXT OF BRIEFING WILL BE POUCHED ON 4 JUNE 74. MCAULIFFE

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